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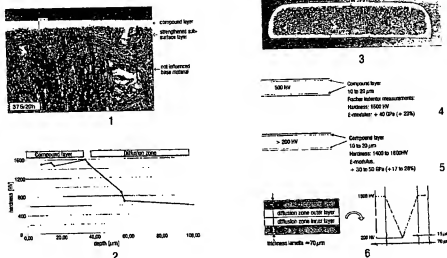
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as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, IL, IN, ES, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IZ, IN, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, NZ, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN,

[Continued on next page]

- (54) Title: WEAR-RESISTANT STAINLESS CUTTING ELEMENT OF AN ELECTRIC SHAVER, ELECTRIC SHAVER, AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SUCH A CUTTING ELEMENT



- (57) **Abstract:** Disclosed is a cutting element as used in an electric shaver. Said element is manufactured from maraging or precipitation-hardenable stainless steel with a surface hardened by plasma nitriding. The cutting element is plasma nitriding hardened on all surfaces of the blade, and a plasma nitriding hardened layer comprises a surface top layer of steel supersaturated with nitrogen and a diffusion layer adjoining the top layer with a hardness ranging from the hardness of the top layer to the hardness of the steel before hardening by means of plasma nitriding. Also disclosed is an electric shaver comprising at least one of the above cutting elements, as well as a method of manufacturing a cutting element.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

national Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C23C8/00 B26B21/40 B26B21/60 B26B21/58 C23C28/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B26B C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>EP 0 743 144 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS LTD) 20 November 1996 (1996-11-20)</p> <p>page 2, line 5 - line 11</p> <p>page 2, line 46 - line 48</p> <p>page 3, line 19 - line 48</p> <p>page 4, line 4 - line 9</p> <p>page 4, line 27 - line 31</p> <p>examples 11,12</p> <p>claims 1,3,5,6</p> <p>figures 1-3,5,6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/-</p>	1-7

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	MELETIS E I ET AL: "LOW-PRESSURE ION NITRIDING OF AL51 304 AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEEL WITH AN INTENSIFIED GLOW DISCHARGE" JOURNAL OF VACUUM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: PART A, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS. NEW YORK, US, vol. 11, no. 1, 1993, pages 25-33, XP000345530 ISSN: 0734-2101 page 26 - page 27 figure 3	8,9
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